30 April 2014

**Time**: 2:00 pm - 4: 00 Pm

**Venue**: SofOmar Meeting room, ILRI campus, Addis Ababa

**Attendes:** Beth Cullen (ILRI), Kindu Mekonnen (ILRI\Africa RISING), Simret Yasabu (ILRI\Africa RISING), Melkamu Bezabih (ILRI), Aster Gebrekirstos (ICRAF), Aberra Adie (ILRI), Tilahun Amede (ICRISAT), Temesgen Alene(ILRI\Africa RISING), Annet Mulema (ILRI), Frederic Baudron (CIMMIT), Elias Damtew (ILRI), Peter Thorne(ILRI\Africa RISING), Dirk Hoekstra(ILRI\LIVES), Britta Kowalski(CIP), Jane Wamatu(ICARDA), Ewen Le borgne (ILRI), Wubalem Dejene (ILRI), Valentine Gandhi (IWMI), Juliet Nicole Braslow(CIAT), Rolf Sommer (CIAT), Job Kihara (CIAT)

**Meeting Agenda Items**

1. Briefing on the value chain study findings
2. Progress update from different CG centers
3. Implementation at kebele level:

a.       How do we engage farmers via an interest group or groups? How many interventions per farmer?

b.      Can we agree some principles around farmer recruitment? Centralized via site coordinators? Accessibility of households for research (not necessarily scaling)?

c.       Clarify the role of the IPs in implementation. Draft guidelines. (Zelalem / Beth).

1. Contracting.
2. Finalising protocols.
3. AOB

**Agenda item 1:  Briefing on the value chain study findings**

* CIAT is leading market and value chains research component of Africa RISING.
* Started on rapid assessment on three crops and three livestock enterprises.
* The rapid assessment was not a complete one and just looked in to the Agri business aspect.
* The team in each of the four sites interviewed local agribusinesses.
* The people who were involved in the survey got together in late April for a writeshop.
* Data processing has already been carried out by the CIAT team.
* During the write shop, gaps were found in some of the information needed to finalise thewrite up. As a result, the data have been sent to each site team to check.
* An outline for the report has already been developed.
* For each site, a map was produced e.g climate , social characteristics.
* The team came up with potential intervention areas for developing research protocols
* A very interesting emerging business is the diary cafes.

**Agenda item 2:  Progress update from different CG centers**

**ICRAF**

* The local knowledge report will be shared.
* The ICRAF team had discussion with Mr. Abiye (private investor) and with Kindu about what ICRAF and ILRI could study together.

**CIP**

* Three research protocols revolving around potato seed production for the belg season have been developed.
* Two protocols are action research based.
* CIP is developing work on cropping-livestock integration for Humid tropics. One of the sites targeted will be Lemo and CIP is planning to work there for Africa RISING as it is a common site for both

**ILRI**

* The Innovation platforms in all the woredas and kebele are now established.
* Started some nursery activities on Tree Lucerne.
* Organized the writeshop with CIAT and some 21 participants attended.
* Started Irrigated fodder work for sheep fattening.

**IWMI**

* Submitted three protocols but got a feedback that there need to be more action oriented rather than assessment. Now partnering with CIMMYT to test supplementary irrigation using small mechanization.
* Met with all partners including and increased role of water in their protocols.
* Finalized and agreed on the Sustainability protocol with ILRI and ICRAF

**ICRISAT**

* Submitted three protocols; on nutrition, developing home gardens to contribute to food security and capitalizing on government in soil conservation.

**CIMMYT**

* Developed three protocols , together with ICARDA and CIP and with IWMI

**CIAT**

* Submitted three protocols

**Agenda item 3: Implementation at kebele level**

a.       How do we engage farmers via an interest group or groups? How many interventions per farmer?

b.      Can we agree some principles around farmer recruitment? Centralised via site coordinators? Accessibility of households for research (not necessarily scaling)?

c.       Clarify the role of the IPs in implementation. Draft guidelines. (Zelalem / Beth).

a and b) There should be a discussion to identify 20-25 interested farmers for each of the protocol that is action oriented

- the site coordinators have a role to play here

- the question is, should the community or the IP technical committee together with the site coordinators select the farmer interest groups?

c) IP guidelines

* These were prepared based on what was agreed with partners.
* They include a description of how the platforms operate.
* Two levels of platforms have been established, woreda and kebele.
* They have technical members who coordinate the platforms and there are operational platforms at the kebele level
* The strategic platform members need to be familiarized with the protocols
* There is a contact person from the ILRI IP team for each woreda

Discussion

* We discussed previously that there are areas where the IPs need to be involved and others where this is not required.
* Farmer research groups are very important
* The plan is to hold community meetings to identify participants in the Farmer Interest Groups.
* We need to make the selection demand driven and not top down
* Action: small group to sit together and develop a guideline on how we will be selecting the farmers (Beth , Tilahun, Dirk , Kindu and Elias)

**Agenda item 4: Contracting**

* Peter Thorne made a presentation about contracting arrangements for CG partners including
  + What the budget needs to consider. He said this needs to include all of the inputs (staff time, overhead and limited operational cost )
  + Technical reporting every 6 month
  + Financial reporting quarterly
* Trying to issue each partner a contract
* All local partner costs will be channeled through the site coordinators
* Suggestion is to have a site level work plan which will be a guide

**Agenda item 5: Finalising protocols**

* Peter will consolidate in the coming few days

We might invite some members on the team to have a look at the protocol based on their local experience including CIP and CIMMYT. This process will not be an approval of protocols rather it will be an advisory to enrich the technical aspect of the protocols.

**Suggestion**

* Good to have thematic groups while we go to identify farmer research/interest groups
* We will look at appointing an assistant to the site coordinators who will make sure the research work is done. This person will play more of a facilitation role
* Suggested to have an accountant as well as the assistant technicians to site coordinators to support in financial issues and IP activities. Otherwise the site coordinators will be engaged in minor things and lose the capacity to manage the bigger research issues
* Suggested to use Yammer and also a wiki page for each sites for more coordination and collaboration

**Agenda Item 6: AOB**

* No other business

**Next Meeting : 29 May 2014 , Sof Omar meeting room**